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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 L-03 SY-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-06 NSAE-00
 RSC-01 RSR-01 /029 W

R 250401Z OCT 71
 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8490

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14378

FOR EA/TB, L AND SY FROM NEWMAN

SUBJ: DECHAMPLAIN COURT-MARTIAL

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF CONFIDENTIAL HQ 13AF MSG DTG 230353Z OCT SENT AMEMB BANGKOK: QUOTE-- SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR WITNESSES, U.S. VS. DECHAMPLAIN FROM TRIAL COUNSEL. THIS MSG IN THREE PARTS. PART ONE. REQUEST FOR MR. GEORGE S. NEUMANN, DCM, AMEMB, BANGKOK. MR. NEUMANN HAS PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBSTANCE AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE TOP SECRET MEMO OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN ADM, UNGER AND SECY AF WHICH THE ACCUSED ALLEGEDLY COPIED AND ATTEMPTED TO PASS TO FOREIGN AGENTS. THIS DOCUMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DOCUMENTS FROM CINCPAC, FORM THE CRUX OF SUBJECT CASE. FURTHER, DCM NEUMANN HAS PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE REMOVAL OF SUBJECT FROM THAILAND AFTER HIS APPREHENSION. IT IS EXPECTED THAT HIS TESTIMONY IN THIS LATTER MATTER WILL BE NECESSARY TO REBUT DEFENSE'S PRETRIAL MOTIONS FOR CHANGE OF VENUE. MR. NEUMANN, IN PERSONAL CONFERENCE WITH TRIAL COUNSEL ON 19 OCT 71, INDICATED HE IS WILLING TO APPEAR IN PERSON AT THE TRIAL, IF NECESSARY. AS WITH ADM MCCAIN, WE BELIEVE THAT MR. NEUMANN'S PERSONAL APPEARANCE AT TRIAL WOULD BE IN BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT.

PART TWO. REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL WITNESSES FROM AMEMB BANGKOK. THE PRESENCE OF THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL WITNESSES IS REQUESTED: A. MR. WILLIAM F. EATON, POL MIL SECTION, AMEMB BANGKOK. MR. EATON ORIGINATED A CONFIDENTIAL AIRGRAM RELATING TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE WHICH THE ACCUSED ALLEGEDLY COMPROMISED.

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DOS, USAF reviews completed. OGC has also reviewed.

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B. MR. HARLAN LEE, AMEMB, BANGKOK. MR. LEE ORIGINATED A CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT RELATING TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE WHICH THE ACCUSED ALLEGEDLY COMPROMISED.

PART THREE. AT THIS TIME WE EXPECT TRIAL TO COMMENCE ON OR ABOUT 1 NOVEMBER 1971 AT ANDERSEN AFB, GUAM. ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSPORTATION ARE BEING MADE AND WE WILL ADVISE YOU OF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. 13 AF FUND CITATION, IF NECESSARY, IS: 5723400 302 7443 201020-02 407 409 5667200 CIC 4 4 274 0210 667200. END QUOTE.

2. TRIAL COUNSELS DURING OCT 19 MEETING INDICATED AMB UNDER OR MY TESTIMONY ON TS MEMCON WOULD BE ONE OF THE KEY ELEMENTS IN CASE AGAINST DECHAMPLAIN. SINCE IT NOT FEASIBLE PROVIDE COURT WITH A DEPOSITION, I INDICATED DECISION AS TO WHO WOULD GO TO GUAM TO TESTIFY WOULD BE MADE BY AMB ON HIS RETURN AND SUBJECT TO HIS DECISION I WAS PREPARED TO TESTIFY.

3. I HAVE ALSO PROVIDED A SWORN AFFIDAVIT TO TRIAL COUNSELS EXPLAINING MY REASONS FOR REQUESTING HQ 7/13TH AF TO REMOVE DECHAMPLAIN FROM THAILAND AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE. COPY OF AFFIDAVIT TRANSMITTED TO EA/TB.
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